

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner:

Claims 1-3, 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Victor et al. (4,751,380). Claims 3 and 12 [are] rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
5 unpatentable over Victor et al.

Response:

Victor et al. discloses obtaining displacement signals utilizing an optical mouse. The present invention is not directed towards obtaining displacement signals, but
10 rather towards indicating compatibility of the working surface with the optical mouse. In the prior art, when cursor movement is not as expected, the user cannot easily know if the problems rests with incompatibility of the working surface, with the mouse itself, with computer system's software or hardware, or with another source. The present invention clearly identifies and informs the user if the
15 unexpected cursor movement is a result of an incompatible working surface rather than one of the other possible causes.

However, to eliminate any possible ambiguity, the Applicant has chosen to amend base claims 1 and 9 to include the limitation that the judging circuit outputs a first signal if the inputted sensing value falls within a first range or outputs a second
20 signal if the inputted sensing value falls within a second range, the first and second signals respectively indicating compatibility or incompatibility of the working surface with the claimed optical mouse (Paragraphs [0026], [0028] as published). No new material has been introduced.

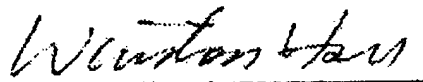
This is clearly different from the differentiating circuit 100 of Victor et al. that
25 outputs a different value indicating whether the voltage of the combined input signals are increasing or decreasing with time. Differentiating circuits eliminate the need for a threshold voltage to compensate for the absolute reflectivities of the grid pattern, since it is the change in reflectivity which is represented by the resulting quadrature signal. (Col.7, lines 15-38).

Thus, Victor et al. generates signals based on changing reflectivities, while the present application determines, not the changes of, but whether the reflection is of a suitable quality (within the predefined range) to deem the working surface compatible with the optical mouse. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests
5 reconsideration of claims 1-12.

Additionally, the Applicant requests acceptance, consideration, and allowance of new claims 13-14 dependent upon base claim 9 and 15-16 dependent upon base claim 1. The claims disclose a control circuit and the transmission of an axial displacement signal and are supported by Paragraph [0031]. No new material has
10 been introduced.

Sincerely yours,

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